

Joseph V. DiSciaccia
Second Ecumenical Council
Oct 11, 1962

Veni Creator Spiritus

(COME HOLY GHOST)



Novena to the Holy Ghost that "God may pour forth His abounding grace on our Holy Father, on all the Fathers of the council, and particularly on the Bishops of this Country, that none may fail in the council's great work of full evangelical renewal within the Church."

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The Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, has set forth the reason and aims of the Ecumenical Council, Vatican II, in the following words:

"... 'there will be one fold and one shepherd.' (JOHN 10,16.) This irresistible assurance was the compelling motive which led Us to announce publicly Our resolve to call an Ecumenical Council. Bishops will come together there from every corner of the world to discuss important matters of religion. But the most pressing topics will be those which concern the spread of the Catholic faith, the revival of Christian standards of morality, and the bringing of ecclesiastical discipline into closer accord with the needs and conditions of our times. This in itself will provide an outstanding example of truth, unity and love. May those who are separated from this Apostolic See, beholding this manifestation of unity, derive from it the inspiration to seek out that unity which Jesus Christ prayed for so ardently from his heavenly Father." (1)

More recently in "*Poenitentiam agere*" the Holy Father has called upon all Catholics to prepare for the Council by acts of penance and by prayer, especially by a Novena to the Holy Ghost.

This little compilation of novena prayers is presented in the hope that in answer to our prayers the floodgates of God's grace will be opened. That this outpouring

(1) Encyclical "*Ad Petri Cathedram*" 29 June 1959; translated C.T.S. London 1959

of grace will be received by those who participate actively in the Council by attendance at its sessions, and by us who participate passively, receiving with open heart and receptive mind its decisions.

"...we in the Church are none of us guiltless of the world's unhappy state today, and the guilt of our fathers lies heavy upon us too. It would be a truly Christian act if the Pope and the Council (perhaps at the very beginning, when they are invoking the Holy Spirit) were to express this truth: Forgive us our sins! Forgive us our sins, and in particular our share in the sin of schism! Pope Adrian VI said it, long ago." (2)

In keeping with this we open our novena with an act of penance before our direct prayer for the council. Then we turn to Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. On each of the nine days we pray for particular intentions and have selected readings from Scripture.

During this time it is important that we assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and receive Holy Communion as often as possible. In this manner the supreme act of worship will become an integral part of our novena. The dispositions that encourage us to unite in prayer at this time should continue throughout the duration of the Council, for this is but a beginning. So important are our prayers we should be moved to resolve to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion frequently, even daily when possible.

(2) "The Council, Reform and Reunion" Hans Kung p 184; Sheed and Ward 1961

NOVENA

(All) Holy God, Almighty Father, Eternal Lord;/ we most humbly acknowledge that through our weaknesses/ and failures to cooperate,/ more fully, with Thy graces;/ that through our pride and intolerance;/ and that through our worldliness;/ we have been remiss in proclaiming to all/ the Good News of the salvation of mankind.

Grant that we may have the courage/ to rid ourselves of these obstacles,/ so that, through the renewal and increase of Thy grace,/ we may bring the light of revelation/ to those who are in darkness/ and know not the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

I confess to Almighty God,/ to the blessed Mary ever Virgin,/ to blessed Michael the Archangel,/ to blessed John the Baptist,/ to the holy apostles Peter and Paul,/ to all the saints,/ and to you, Father,/ that I have sinned exceedingly/ in thought, word and deed,/ through my fault,/ through my fault,/ through my most grievous fault./ Therefore I beseech/ the blessed Mary ever Virgin,/ blessed Michael the Archangel,/ blessed John the Baptist,/ the holy apostles Peter and Paul,/ all the saints,/ and you, Father,/ to pray to the Lord, our God, for me.

(Priest) May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

(All) Amen.

(Priest) May the almighty and merciful
Lord grant us pardon, +absolu-
tion and remission of our sins.

(All) Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR HOLY FATHER FOR THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

(Priest) O Divine Spirit, sent by the Fa-
ther in the name of Jesus, Who
dost infallibly assist and guide the Church,
pour forth the fulness of Thy gifts upon
the Ecumenical Council.

Kind Teacher and Comforter, enlighten
the minds of our Bishops, who responding
to the invitation of the Sovereign Roman
Pontiff, will gather in solemn assembly.

Grant that from this Council there may
come forth abundant fruits: that the light
and strength of the Gospel may ever more
widely influence human society; that new
vigour may infuse the Catholic religion and
its missionary task; that the Church's
teaching may be better known and Chris-
tian morality more widely practiced.

Sweet Guest of our souls, confirm our
minds in truth, and dispose our hearts to
obedience, so that the decisions of the
Council may find in us generous acceptance
and prompt fulfilment.

We beseech Thee, too, on behalf of those
sheep who no longer belong to the one fold
of Jesus Christ, that they also, glorying as
they do in the name of Christian, may
finally regain unity under one Shepherd.

Renew in our time Thy wondrous works,
as in a new Pentecost, and grant that holy
Church, gathered together in unanimous,
more intense prayer, around Mary, the
Mother of Jesus, and guided by Peter, may
spread the kingdom of the Divine Saviour,
which is the kingdom of truth, of justice,
of love, and of peace.

(All) Amen.

LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on
us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have
mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,

Pray for us

Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of artisans,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him lord of His house:

R. And ruler of all His substance.

Let us pray

O God, who in Thine unspeakable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate on earth as our protector: Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

FIRST DAY

Prayer for the Holy Church

(Priest) Dearly beloved, let us pray for the Holy Church of God; that Our Lord and God may deign to grant it peace and unity, and preserve it throughout the world; subjecting to it principalities and powers: and that He may grant us, who live in peace and tranquillity, the grace to glorify God the Father Almighty.

Let us pray

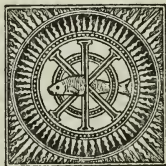
(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ Who has in Christ revealed Thy glory to all nations,/ preserve the works of Thy mercy,/ that Thy Church, spread throughout the world,/ may persevere with a steadfast faith/ in the confession of Thy name./ Through the same Jesus Christ,/ Thy Son our Lord,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading From the Gospel of St. John, 15th chapter — verses 1 to 11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he will take away; and every branch that bears fruit he will cleanse, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remain on the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine,

you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he shall be cast outside as the branch and wither; and they shall gather them up and cast them into the fire, and they shall burn. If you abide in me, and if my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done to you. In this is my Father glorified, that you may bear very much fruit, and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, as I also have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

(Turn to page 22)



SECOND DAY

Prayer for the Holy Father

(Priest) Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope John, that our Lord and God, Who elected him to the order of the episcopacy, may preserve him in health and safety for the good of His Holy Church, to govern the holy people of God.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ by whose judgement all things are established:/ mercifully hear our prayers,/ and in Thy goodness preserve the Bishop chosen for us:/ that the Christian people,/ who are governed by Thy authority,/ may increase in the merits of their faith under so great a prelate./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading From the Gospel of St. John, 10th Chapter — verses 14 to 16

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, even as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

(Turn to page 22)

THIRD DAY

Prayer for all Orders and Grades of the Faithful

(Priest) Let us pray for all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Subdeacons, Acolytes, Exorcists, Readers, Porters, Confessors, Virgins, Widows, and for all the holy people of God.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church/ is sanctified and governed:/ hear our prayers for all the orders thereof:/ so that by the aid of Thy Grace,/ all in their different grades/ may render Thee faithful service./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading From the Gospel of St. John, 17th Chapter — verses 1 to 8

These things Jesus spoke; and raising his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the hour has come! Glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee, even as thou hast given him power over all flesh, in order that to all thou hast given him he may give everlasting life. Now this is everlasting life, that they may know thee, the only true God, and him whom thou hast sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified thee on earth; I have accomplished the work that thou hast given me to do. And now do thou,

Father, glorify me with thyself, with the glory that I had with thee before the world existed.

"I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou hast given me out of the world. They were thine, and thou hast given them to me, and they have kept thy word. Now they have learnt that whatever thou hast given me is from thee; because the words that thou hast given me I have given to them."

(Turn to page 22)



FOURTH DAY

Prayer for the Ruling Powers

(Priest) Let us pray for all the rulers of states, and for their aids and officials, that our Lord and God may direct their hearts and minds to the doing of His will and our continuous peace.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ in whose hands are all powers/ and the rights of all their peoples;/ look graciously upon all who rule us with authority,/ that under Thy protection/ each homeland may enjoy freedom of worship and security of life./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Epistle to Ephesians, 4th Chapter — verses 11 to 15

And he himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, others again as evangelists, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ. And this he has done that we may be now

no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine devised in the wickedness of men, in craftiness, according to the wiles of error. Rather are we to practise the truth in love, and so grow up in all things in him who is the head, Christ.

(Turn to page 22)



FIFTH DAY

Prayer for Catechumens

(Priest) Let us pray for our catechumens:
that Our Lord and God would
open their hearts and the gate of mercy;
so that having received, by the waters of
rebirth, the remission of all their sins, they
also may be found in Christ Jesus, our
Lord.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ who does
always render Thy church fruitful
in new children:/ increase the faith and
understanding of our catechumens;/ so
that,/ being regenerated in the waters of
Baptism,/ they may be united to the chil-
dren of Thy adoption./ Through our Lord
Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives and
reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

**Scripture Reading From the Gospel of St.
John, 17th Chapter — verses 20 to 26**

“Yet not for these only do I pray, but for
those also who through their word are to
believe in me, that all may be one, even as
thou, Father, in me and I in thee; that
they also may be one in us, that the world
may believe that thou hast sent me. And
the glory that thou hast given me, I have
given to them, that they may be one, even
as we are one: I in them and thou in me;
that they may be perfected in unity, and
that the world may know that thou hast

sent me, and that thou hast loved them even as thou hast loved me.

"Father, I will that where I am, they also whom thou hast given me may be with me; in order that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me, because thou hast loved me before the creation of the world. Just Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have made known to them thy name, and will make it known, in order that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

(Turn to page 22)



SIXTH DAY

Prayer for the needs of the Faithful

(Priest) Let us pray to God, our Almighty Father, that He may cleanse the world of all errors, remove diseases, drive away famine, open prisons, break chains, grant a safe return to travellers, health to the sick, and a haven of safety.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ the comfort of the afflicted/ and the strength of those that labor:/ let the prayers of those who call upon Thee in any tribulation,/ reach Thee:/ that all may rejoice that Thy mercy relieved them/ in their necessities./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading From the Gospel of St. John, 17th Chapter — verses 9 to 19

“I pray for them; not for the world do I pray, but for those whom thou hast given me, because they are thine; and all things that are mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep in thy name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one even as we are. While I was with them, I kept them in thy name. Those whom thou hast given me I guarded; and not one of

them perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, in order that they may have my joy made full in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not pray that thou take them out of the world, but that thou keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth. Thy word is truth. Even as thou hast sent me into the world, so I also have sent them into the world. And for them I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

(Turn to page 22)

SEVENTH DAY

Prayer for the Unity of the Church

(Priest) Let us pray for those in heresy and schism, that our Lord would deliver them from all their errors; and vouchsafe to recall them to their holy mother, the Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ Who wills the salvation of all,/ and that no one should perish:/ look down upon the souls that are deceived by the frauds of the devil;/ remove the evil of heresy,/ that the hearts of the erring may repent/ and return to the unity of thy truth./ Through

our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives
and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end.
Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Epistle to Ephesians, 4th
Chapter — verses 1 to 6**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and throughout all, and in us all.
(Turn to page 22)

EIGHTH DAY

Prayer for the conversion of the Jews

(Priest) Let us pray for the Jewish people:
that our God and Lord would
withdraw the veil from their hearts: that
they also may acknowledge our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ Who will
not refuse thy mercy to the Jewish
people,/ hear the prayers which we offer
for them:/ grant that they may acknowl-
edge the light of Thy truth,/ which is
Christ,/ so that they may be delivered from

darkness./ Through the same Jesus Christ,/ Thy Son our Lord,/ Who lives and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Epistle to Galatians, 3rd Chapter — verses 26 to 29

For you are all the children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are the offspring of Abraham, heirs according to promise.

(Turn to page 22)

NINTH DAY

Prayer for the conversion of the Infidels

(Priest) Let us pray for the pagans: that Almighty God would remove iniquity from their hearts, so that quitting their idols, they may be converted to the true and living God, and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and God.

Let us pray

(All) Almighty and eternal God,/ Who seeks not the death but the life of sinners,/ mercifully hear our prayer,/ and deliver them from the worship of idols;/ and for the praise and glory of Thy name,/ unite them to Thy holy Church./ Through

our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,/ Who lives
and reigns with Thee/ in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,/ God,/ world without end.
Amen.

Scripture Reading: First Epistle to Corinthians, 10th Chapter — verses 14 to 18

Therefore, beloved, flee from the worship of idols. I am speaking as to men of sense; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the sharing of the blood of Christ? And the bread that we break, is it not the partaking of the body of the Lord? Because the bread is one, we though many, are one body, all of us who partake of the one bread.

COME HOLY GHOST

Come Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God sent from on high,
Thou font of life and fire of love,
The soul's anointing from above.

Praise be to Thee, Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit, with them One;
And may the Son on us bestow
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.

BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

O SALUTARIS

O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium,
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.

TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo Sacramentum,
Veneremur cernui;
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio:
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

V. Panem de caelo praestitisti eis.
R. Omne delectamentum in se habentem.

Oremus

Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili
passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti: tribue,
quaesumus, ita nos Corporis et Sanguinis
tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemp-
tionis tuae fructum in nobis jugiter sentia-
mus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculo-
rum. R. Amen.

DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins and Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.